

Message Text

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SUBJ 44TH SESSION ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOV 29, 1973

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT REMARKS OF USDEL AT THE 44TH SESSION-
ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 29, 1973, DURING
DEBATE ON ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM:

MR. CHAIRMAN:

THIS DELEGATION HAS JUST LISTENED WITH KEEN INTEREST TO THE
DIRECTOR'S COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN
PROGRAM. AS THE DIRECTOR INDICATED, SEVERAL QUESTIONS
CONCERNING THIS PROGRAM WERE RAISED BY THE UNITED STATES
DELEGATE DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE LAST MAY.

I AM PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
HAS SATISFIED SEVERAL OF OUR INTERESTS AND CONCERNS REGARDING
THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM. HOWEVER, I MUST HASTEN TO ADD
THAT SOME RESERVATIONS REMAIN AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO
SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM AT
THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

MR CHAIRMAN, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE WELL AWARE OF
THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN
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FOUNDING THE SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA

ABOUT 8 YEARS AGO--AND AS THE RECORD CLEARLY SHOWS, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE PROGRAM GENEROUSLY SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

WE SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN ITS BASIC CONCEPTS AND POTENTIAL VALUE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE TAKE CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM AND RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. WE WISH TO BE REASSURED THAT THE PROGRAM IS OPERATING ON A SOUND, EFFICIENT BASIS, AND IS ACTUALLY SERVING A USEFUL PURPOSE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

HOWEVER, A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO US IS THE LACK OF PARTICIPATION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN THIS PROGRAM. PERMIT ME TO REFER TO THE TABLE ON PAGE 52 OF THE DOCUMENT BEFORE US (MC/1062) WHICH REVEALS THAT ICEM ANTICIPATES CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM FROM ONLY 19 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN 1974. AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS FROM WHICH NO RPT NO CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ANTICIPATED ARE SEVERAL OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPOSEDLY RECEIVE DIRECT BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM. AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS FROM WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ANTICIPATED IS ONE WHICH APPEARS TO BE REDUCING ITS CONTRIBUTION VERY SUBSTANTIALLY. THESE ARE MATTERS OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE TABLE ON PAGE 52 REVEALS THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO COVER 55 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM IN 1974. TOWARD THESE TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO \$2,093,775, MY GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE \$1,158,620.

WE ASK, MR CHAIRMAN: IS THIS FAIR AND EQUITABLE? OFFICIALS OF MY GOVERNMENT, IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, ARE RAISING SIMILAR QUESTIONS.

MY COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON ARE EXPERIENCING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN INTERPRETING TO OUR OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THE RATIONALE FOR OUR COMPARATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM WHEN MANY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING SEVERAL WHICH BENEFIT DIRECTLY FROM THE PROGRAM CONTRIBUTE NOTHING TO IT, AND OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE REDUCING THEIR LEVEL UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THEIR SUPPORT.
HAVING SAID THIS, MR CHAIRMAN, WE WISH TO ASSURE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ONCE AGAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THIS PROGRAM AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE PROGRAM'S COSTS.

BUT WE APPEAL TO OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR UNDER-

STANDING AND COOPERATION. WE NEED WIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM-- AND WE NEED A GREATER DEMONSTRATION ON THE PART OF THE BENEFITTING COUNTRIES THAT THE PROGRAM REALLY HAS VALUE. I CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE MATTERS.

IN CONCLUDING MY REMARKS, THE US DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE DIRECTOR AND HIS DEDICATED STAFF ON THEIR SPLENDID EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS PROGRAM WORK AND SUCCEED--A PROGRAM WHICH BY ITS VERY NATURE IS A DIFFICULT ONE. WE WISH THEM THE BEST OF SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EFFORTS.

THANK YOU, MR CHAIRMAN.BASSIN

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